College Students' Dramatics-No Show I Complete Without a Dance-The Performers Pity Women After They Put on Feminine Raiment.

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Ballet maitresse, of the corps de bal-

Not only does she instruct the students in her art, but the mothers and sisters of many of the college boys, as well as other high-born dames belonging to New York's aristocracy, who would do a pas seul, or add fancy fan-tistic toe tripping to their other accomplishments, gain their skill through

There are few ballet mistresses in the country, and none at present having such success as Miss Becket. The teaching of amateurs is the most profitsikirts, ruffled knickers and dancing

BOYS THAT DANCE over severe-looking ballet mistress, is laughable.

"Well, they do what I say. You see they all want a good part. And they don't want to be put in the back row. So all I have to do when they are too lively a don't attend rehears le to lively all a lively a

lively or don't attend rehearsals is to say that only the best dancers can go in the quadrilles or front row."

Of course, the most of them are green Sometimes they dance several years, and then they reach the premiere stage. The managers of the theatricals usually expect to devote three weeks pet, composed of college boys, is the prior to the opening to ballet instructunique position Miss Rose Becket tion, and when Miss Becket arrives in New Haven candidates for the ballet are all ready to offer their services. At the first rehearsal the corps is chosen. Plumpness is an essential qualification in college corps, and the ballet mistress picks out the fattest candidates,

> those whose shoulders and arms haven t been turned into bunches of muscle and who will most become the decol lete and sleeveless satin corsages. The boys have no such preparations

able portion of her work now. It is corsets. Boys find trousers are not imnever possible to learn the names of the fashionable women and society girls whom she is teaching, but they are known to be among the most ex-clusive women in the city. In the sum-mer Miss Becket usually spends a part of the time at Newport, where the new



to be taught to private pupils.

of the college dramatic societies came | grace of the ballet mistress. to give a ballet Miss Becket was secured to train the dozen college boys to dance. The performance was a sucwere so envied that the following year enough students were anxious to dance to have formed two ballet corps of good size. The girls have not had a chance

high favor in college dramatic circles. shoulder. All those ballets which have made Yale theatricals famous and drawn overflowing audiences for whatever charity given have been composed by Miss do a certain pose, or take certain steps Becket, who always trains the gay stu-dent dancers herself. It is all very well do with it, because they all declare for a ballet master to instruct a femi- they are not going on to make fools nine corps, but it requires a woman to of themselves before their families and drill young men until they dance with girlish grace. Not only Yale boys but "They all try to get into the front two clubs from Columbia college, Phil- row, or in the quadrilles. Although adelphia boys and Baltimore and Wash- they are all called boys, some of them ts are in the amateur the atrical business for love and charity. to do with a college boy getting into All produce ballets or introduce elab- the back row. A 'boy' may be on orate dancing, and the poetry of their the edge of thirty, but if he is the best motion over which the girls rave is dancer he may even become a pregained through Miss Becket, who converts them temporarily into gauzy skirted, blond-wigged beauties and ternsichorean successes.

the maitresse de ballet.

dances with which fushionable women f Miss Becket, in black tights, and two entertain small and select parties have long full Spanish lace skirts, dances before the swaying, bending lines of coat-It was through this that when one less students, who try to imitate the

Rehearsals are held every day, in the hour before dinner usually. The boys and as many society girls who were hire a hall for this, and it is three weeks of hard work. Premieres have to cess, and the boys who had taken part | be taught alone. Everybody is supposed to practice outside of the class. No such paraphernalia is used as is seen in an ordinary ballet class. No bars are needed to assist the boys to raise their toes. Every one of them For four years these ballets and is pretty apt to be limber enough to skirt-dancing numbers have been in put a toe on a level with his waist or

"It is how to do it so as to be a picture of grace that troubles boys," said Miss Becket. "If a boy thinks he can't

are nearly thirty, but age has nothing

"It is only at the last two or three rehearsals that the boys appear in their stage costumes. Then the fun com-The college season has just closed for he maitresse de ballet. mences. 'Oh, Miss Becket, what do you do with this?' 'Oh, Miss Becket, "I shouldn't mind teaching them all how do you get into these things?" the year round," said Miss Becket, "for How do these corsets go on?" 'How they are the nicest pupils there are." do you fasten this waist on? and such a



"GOING TO GET USED TO MY SKIRTS," HE EXPLAINED.

ticaship at Covent Garden, for she is signt, 1 think, 1 have seen was one day an English woman. She has been in when a tall and robust premiere apthe ballet at the royal theater which peared at a rehearsal with his tall hat the king maintains in Belgium, has on, his trousers turned up at the studied in Paris, and for five or six years ankles, his ballet shoes on, sleeves now has been training in this country, pulled up and a full set of gauzy ballet sional dancers she has seen can acquire a ballet with the facility of college students. She lays it first of all to their Intelligence and also to the perfect shape they are kept in by a reasonable

amount of athletics. The Strollers, one of the Columbia college clubs, is one of her favorite clubs to teach. Their ballet of 143 boys that appeared in "Ivanhoe" last season in New York and Philadelphia was the finest college corps of ballet that has yet been trained. Three premieres

After all, the Yale boys delight the dancing teacher's heart.

"When the note arrives salying it is time for me to take the ballet in hand I am always delighted. 'Is it funny?' It's the only real pleasure of my year's work. Why absolutely I laugh so much at those boys that I grow fat in the three weeks that I am in New Haven training them before the opening per-formance. A skeleton would have to laugh at them. They are sofull of life." "Do they play tricks on you?"

"No, indeed; they are gentlemen always, and then I make them obey me." The idea of a lot of larky sons of Eli cheving anybody, much less the not

and she declares that for quickness in learning no set of women or profes- my skirts, he explained."





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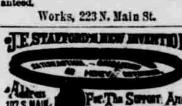
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